

George Harper (1929-2007)

George LeRoy Harper, a longtime resident of Barstow, passed on Dec. 6, 2007. He was born on June 6, 1929 in Los Angeles. At the age of six weeks he moved to the family home in Goffs, where he lived until he was four years old. He then moved with his mother, Grace P. Smith and step-father, Orville P. Smith, to the high desert area, first in Amboy, then to Hinkley, eventually settling in Barstow when he was six years old.

George graduated from Barstow High School in 1947. He attended college for a short time, and in 1948 he joined the Air Force. Also in 1948, he married his wife Cynthia A. (Smythe) Harper. They returned to Barstow after George left the Air Force. In 1951 George went to work at the Santa Fe Railroad. He retired in 1989 as a switchman.

George's hobbies included bowling and remote control model airplanes. He built his first remote control model airplane at the age of nine. He spent many hours flying the remote control planes at Hobbs Field and Calico Dry Lake. He was one of the founding members of the Barstow Buzzards Model Aircraft Club. He spent many hours building his own designs as well as flying both sailplanes and airplanes. George enjoyed spending his off time with family and friends riding motorcycles and quads at Sawtooth Canyon, and cookouts at Rainbow Basin and Mule Canyon. George had a true love of the desert, the openness and beauty could not be surpassed!

George is survived by his wife of 59 years, Cynthia A. Harper; sons, Larry L. Harper and his wife, Char, Garry N. Harper and his wife, Sharon and George Dale Harper; daughter, Colleen K. Harper Mahoney and her husband, Steve J. Mahoney; granddaughters, Kellie Bell, Kerri Warren, Misty Espinoza, Tammi Harper, Tyleen Mahoney, Cynthia Harper and Shawnie Harper; grandsons, Stephen Mahoney, Arron Harper, Kyle Harper and Chance Harper; eight great-granddaughters; and 10 great-grandsons.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007, at 11 a.m. at Mead Mortuary, 36930 Irwin Road, with burial following at Mt. View Memorial Park, 37067 Irwin Road.